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PATENT  
9D-HL-20081

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent No.: 7,017,217

Issued: March 28, 2006

Inventor(s): Johanski et al.

Assignee: General Electric Company

For: WASHING MACHINE RINSE CYCLE  
METHOD AND APPARATUS

Certificate  
APR 02 2008  
of Correction

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on March 27, 2008.

*Eric T. Kruschke*  
Eric T. Kruschke  
Reg. No. 42,769

Attention Certificate of Corrections Branch  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION OF  
PATENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.322(a)

Sir:

Attached is Form PTO/SB/44 suitable for printing.

Submitted herewith is a copy of the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due and the Notice of Allowability dated November 17, 2005 including an Examiner's Amendment/Comment amending Claims 6, 7, 9, and 15, and a copy of the Amendment filed October 6, 2005. Applicants respectfully submit that the corrections shown below are in accordance with the Examiners Amendment/Comment dated November 17, 2005 and the Amendment filed October 6, 2005. The corrections thereof do not involve such changes in the patent as would constitute new matter or would require re-examination. Applicants respectfully request a Certificate of Correction for the following:

In Claim 1, column 8, line 33, delete "spray" and insert therefor --spraying--.

In Claim 8, column 8, line 61, between "spraying" and "quantity" insert --a--.

The corrections are not due to any error by Applicants and no fee is due.

The Assignment for this patent is recorded on Reel 012912/Frame 0334.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 27, 2008

Eric T. Krischke

Eric T. Krischke

Reg. No. 42,769

ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP

One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600

St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740

(314) 621-5070

**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE  
CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION**

PATENT NO. : 7,017,217  
APPLICATION NO. : 10/064,499  
ISSUE DATE : March 28, 2006  
INVENTOR(S) : Johanski et al.

**PAGE 1 OF 1**

It is certified that an error appears or errors appear in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

In Claim 1, column 8, line 33, delete "spray" and insert therefor --spraying--.  
In Claim 8, column 8, line 61, between "spraying" and "quantity" insert --a--.

MAILING ADDRESS OF SENDER:  
Eric T. Krischke  
Armstrong Teasdale LLP  
One Metropolitan Sq., Suite 2600  
St. Louis, MO 63102

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## UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

## NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

23465 7590 11/17/2005

JOHN S. BEULICK  
C/O ARMSTRONG TEASDALE, LLP  
ONE METROPOLITAN SQUARE  
SUITE 2600  
ST LOUIS, MO 63102-2740

EXAMINER

CHAUDHRY, SAEED T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,499	07/22/2002	Brian Johanski	9D-HL-20081	4857

TITLE OF INVENTION: WASHING MACHINE RINSE CYCLE METHOD AND APPARATUS

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1400	\$300	\$1700	02/17/2006

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

## HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

## I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

Entered into PAGE/PIPS

Date 11-28-05

By: E Deaton

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Patent Publication

APR 02 2006

ENTERED  
Date: 11/22/05  
By: Kelly  
13307-270



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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/064,499	07/22/2002	Brian Johanski	9D-HL-20081	4857

23465 7590 11/17/2005  
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SUITE 2600  
ST LOUIS, MO 63102-2740

EXAMINER

CHAUDHRY, SAEED T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1746

DATE MAILED: 11/17/2005

**Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b)**  
(application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 491 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 491 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571) 272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

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## Notice of Allowability

**Application No.**

10/064,499

**Examiner**

Saeed T. Chaudhry

**Applicant(s)**

JOHANSKI ET AL.

**Art Unit**

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendments and remarks filed October 6, 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,3-13 and 15-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

### Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date 11/10/05.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_.

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APR 02 2008

Application/Control Number: 10/064,499  
Art Unit: 1746

Page 2

***NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY (PTOL 37)***  
***PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED***  
***IN THIS APPLICATION***

**Examiner's Amendments**

An Examiner's Amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 C.F.R. § 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee.

In claim 6, at line 1, "the predetermined" has been deleted and lieu thereof, - - a - - has been inserted.

In claim 7, at lines 1 though 2, "the predetermined" has been deleted and lieu thereof, - - a - - has been inserted.

In claim 9, at line 3, "predetermined" has been deleted and lieu thereof, - - a - - has been inserted.

In claim 15, at line 14, after, "into the basket", - - when a saturation point of the clothes is reached - - has been inserted.

Non-elected claims 18-29 has been canceled.

Authorization for this Examiner's Amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Patrick W. Rasche on November 10, 2005.

**Reasons for allowance**

The following is an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance:

None of the prior art discloses or suggests a process of operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle by spraying fresh water at first rate and spraying is terminated when the clothes are saturated with the sprayed fresh water.

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Application/Control Number: 10/064,499

Page 3

Art Unit: 1746

The closest cited prior art Van Newenhizen (5,199,127) and Hardaway et al (5,233,718) disclose rinsing method but fail to disclose a step of stopping spray of water when the clothes are saturated.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the Issue Fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the Issue Fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

*Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Saeed T. Chaudhry whose telephone number is (571) 272-1298. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.*

*If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Michael Barr, can be reached on (571)-272-1414. The fax phone number for non-final is (703)-872-9306.*

*When filing a FAX in Gp 1700, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communication with the PTO that are for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.*

*Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1700.*

**Saeed T. Chaudhry**  
Patent Examiner

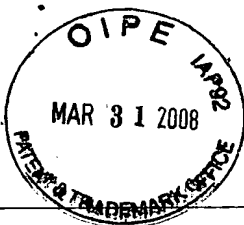


**MICHAEL BARR**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

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Patent Publication

APR 02 2008





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<b>Interview Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/064,499	JOHANSKI ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Saeed T. Chaudhry	1746	

All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Saeed T. Chaudhry. (3) \_\_\_\_\_.

(2) Mr. Patrick W. Rasche. (4) \_\_\_\_\_.

Date of Interview: 10 November 2005.

Type: a) ☒ Telephonic b) ☐ Video Conference  
c) ☐ Personal [copy given to: 1) ☐ applicant 2) ☐ applicant's representative]

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: d) ☐ Yes e) ☐ No.  
If Yes, brief description: \_\_\_\_\_.

Claim(s) discussed: 6, 7, 9 and 15.

Identification of prior art discussed: \_\_\_\_\_.

Agreement with respect to the claims f) ☒ was reached. g) ☐ was not reached. h) ☐ N/A.

Substance of Interview including description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments: Changes i the claims were suggested by the examiner to clarify the claimed language. Mr. Patrick W. Rasche authorized the changes.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable, if available, must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments that would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

THE FORMAL WRITTEN REPLY TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a reply to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN A NON-EXTENDABLE PERIOD OF THE LONGER OF ONE MONTH OR THIRTY DAYS FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE, OR THE MAILING DATE OF THIS INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM, WHICHEVER IS LATER, TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. See Summary of Record of Interview requirements on reverse side or on attached sheet.

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Examiner Note: You must sign this form unless it is an Attachment to a signed Office action.

  
Examiner's signature, if required



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## Summary of Record of Interview Requirements

### Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Section 713.04, Substance of Interview Must be Made of Record

A complete written statement as to the substance of any face-to-face, video conference, or telephone interview with regard to an application must be made of record in the application whether or not an agreement with the examiner was reached at the interview.

### Title 37 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) § 1.133 Interviews

#### Paragraph (b)

In every instance where reconsideration is requested in view of an interview with an examiner, a complete written statement of the reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action must be filed by the applicant. An interview does not remove the necessity for reply to Office action as specified in §§ 1.111, 1.135. (35 U.S.C. 132)

#### 37 CFR §1.2 Business to be transacted in writing.

All business with the Patent or Trademark Office should be transacted in writing. The personal attendance of applicants or their attorneys or agents at the Patent and Trademark Office is unnecessary. The action of the Patent and Trademark Office will be based exclusively on the written record in the Office. No attention will be paid to any alleged oral promise, stipulation, or understanding in relation to which there is disagreement or doubt.

The action of the Patent and Trademark Office cannot be based exclusively on the written record in the Office if that record is itself incomplete through the failure to record the substance of interviews.

It is the responsibility of the applicant or the attorney or agent to make the substance of an interview of record in the application file, unless the examiner indicates he or she will do so. It is the examiner's responsibility to see that such a record is made and to correct material inaccuracies which bear directly on the question of patentability.

Examiners must complete an Interview Summary Form for each interview held where a matter of substance has been discussed during the interview by checking the appropriate boxes and filling in the blanks. Discussions regarding only procedural matters, directed solely to restriction requirements for which interview recordation is otherwise provided for in Section 812.01 of the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, or pointing out typographical errors or unreadable script in Office actions or the like, are excluded from the interview recordation procedures below. Where the substance of an interview is completely recorded in an Examiners Amendment, no separate Interview Summary Record is required.

The Interview Summary Form shall be given an appropriate Paper No., placed in the right hand portion of the file, and listed on the "Contents" section of the file wrapper. In a personal interview, a duplicate of the Form is given to the applicant (or attorney or agent) at the conclusion of the interview. In the case of a telephone or video-conference interview, the copy is mailed to the applicant's correspondence address either with or prior to the next official communication. If additional correspondence from the examiner is not likely before an allowance or if other circumstances dictate, the Form should be mailed promptly after the interview rather than with the next official communication.

The Form provides for recordation of the following information:

- Application Number (Series Code and Serial Number)
- Name of applicant
- Name of examiner
- Date of interview
- Type of interview (telephonic, video-conference, or personal)
- Name of participant(s) (applicant, attorney or agent, examiner, other PTO personnel, etc.)
- An indication whether or not an exhibit was shown or a demonstration conducted
- An identification of the specific prior art discussed
- An indication whether an agreement was reached and if so, a description of the general nature of the agreement (may be by attachment of a copy of amendments or claims agreed as being allowable). Note: Agreement as to allowability is tentative and does not restrict further action by the examiner to the contrary.
- The signature of the examiner who conducted the interview (if Form is not an attachment to a signed Office action)

It is desirable that the examiner orally remind the applicant of his or her obligation to record the substance of the interview of each case. It should be noted, however, that the Interview Summary Form will not normally be considered a complete and proper recordation of the interview unless it includes, or is supplemented by the applicant or the examiner to include, all of the applicable items required below concerning the substance of the interview.

A complete and proper recordation of the substance of any interview should include at least the following applicable items:

- 1) A brief description of the nature of any exhibit shown or any demonstration conducted,
- 2) an identification of the claims discussed,
- 3) an identification of the specific prior art discussed,
- 4) an identification of the principal proposed amendments of a substantive nature discussed, unless these are already described on the Interview Summary Form completed by the Examiner,
- 5) a brief identification of the general thrust of the principal arguments presented to the examiner,  
(The identification of arguments need not be lengthy or elaborate. A verbatim or highly detailed description of the arguments is not required. The identification of the arguments is sufficient if the general nature or thrust of the principal arguments made to the examiner can be understood in the context of the application file. Of course, the applicant may desire to emphasize and fully describe those arguments which he or she feels were or might be persuasive to the examiner.)
- 6) a general indication of any other pertinent matters discussed, and
- 7) if appropriate, the general results or outcome of the interview unless already described in the Interview Summary Form completed by the examiner.

Examiners are expected to carefully review the applicant's record of the substance of an interview. If the record is not complete and accurate, the examiner will give the applicant an extendable one month time period to correct the record.

### Examiner to Check for Accuracy

If the claims are allowable for other reasons of record, the examiner should send a letter setting forth the examiner's version of the statement attributed to him or her. If the record is complete and accurate, the examiner should place the indication, "Interview Record OK" on the paper recording the substance of the interview along with the date and the examiner's initials.

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10/06/2005 13:19 FAX 3146215065

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\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\* TX REPORT \*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

TRANSMISSION OK

TX/RX NO	4196
RECIPIENT ADDRESS	5652#13307#270#15712738300
DESTINATION ID	
ST. TIME	10/06 13:10
TIME USE	09'06
PAGES SENT	31
RESULT	OK

## ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP

One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
Phone: (314) 621-5070  
Fax: (314) 621-5065  
www.armstrongteasdale.com

### CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DATE: October 6, 2005

TO: Examiner: Chaudhry, Saeed T.

Art Unit: 1746

Fax: (571) 273-8300

From: Patrick W. Rasche

RE: U.S. Patent Application

Serial No.: 10/064,499

Applicant: Brian Johanski, et al. .

Atty. Dkt. No.: 9D-HL-20081

#### DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED WITH TRANSMISSION:

- Amendment Transmittal and Certificate of Mailing and Facsimile Transmission (3 pgs.)
- Amendment in Response to the Final Office Action dated July 6, 2005 (26 pgs.)
- Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in duplicate (1 pg.)
- Certificate of Facsimile Transmission (1 pg.)

Total pages including cover page: 32

If all pages are not received, please contact: Lisa Schodrowski at Ext. 7447

RE: The above referenced U.S. Patent Application

Title: Washing Machine Rinse Cycle Method and Apparatus

Filed: July 22, 2002

AT File No. 13307-270

SCANNED  
By: \_\_\_\_\_ RECEIVED-USPTO  
FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

#### CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

APR 02 2008

I hereby certify that these papers are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile Number (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.

Date: October 6, 2005

*Patrick W. Rasche*



**COPY**

**ARMSTRONG TEASDALE LLP**

One Metropolitan Square, Suite 2600  
St. Louis, Missouri 63102-2740  
Phone: (314) 621-5070  
Fax: (314) 621-5065  
www.armstrongteasdale.com

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO THE  
UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

**DATE:** October 6, 2005

**RE:** U.S. Patent Application

**TO: Examiner:** Chaudhry, Saeed T.  
**Art Unit:** 1746  
**Fax:** (571) 273-8300  
**From:** Patrick W. Rasche

**Serial No.:** 10/064,499  
**Applicant:** Brian Johanski, et al. .  
**Atty. Dkt. No.:** 9D-HL-20081

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**Total pages including cover page: 32**

**If all pages are not received, please contact: Lisa Schodrowski at Ext. 7447**

**RE:** The above referenced U.S. Patent Application  
**Title:** Washing Machine Rinse Cycle Method and Apparatus  
**Filed:** July 22, 2002  
**AT File No.** 13307-270

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that these papers are being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Facsimile Number (571) 273-8300 on the date shown below.

Date: October 6, 2005

Patrick W. Rasche  
Reg. No. 37,916

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**APR 02 2008**

**\*IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE ALL PAGES, PLEASE CONTACT US IMMEDIATELY AT (314) 621-5070.**



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VIA FACSIMILE (703) 872-9302

9D-HL-20081  
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Brian Johanski, et al. :  
Serial No.: 10/064,499 : Art Unit: 1746  
Filed: July 22, 2002 : Examiner: Chaudhry, Saeed T.  
For: WASHING MACHINE RINSE CYCLE :  
METHOD AND APPARATUS :  
Mail Stop: AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TRANSMITTAL

1. Transmitted herewith is:

Amendment Transmittal and Certificate of Mailing/Transmission (3 pgs.)  
Certificate of Facsimile Transmittal (1 pg.)  
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Amendment in response to the Final Office Action dated July 6, 2005 (26 pgs.)

STATUS

2. Applicant  
     Claims small entity status.  
  X   is other than a small entity.

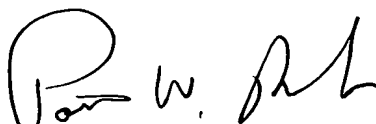
CERTIFICATE OF MAILING/TRANSMISSION

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Date: October 6, 2005

  
Patrick W. Rache  
Reg. No. 37,916

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**EXTENSION OF TERM**

3. The proceedings herein are for a patent application and the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.136 apply.

(complete (a) or (b), as applicable)

- (a) \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136  
(Fees: 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)-(d) for the total number of months checked below:)

Extension for response within:	Other than small entity Fee	Small entity Fee (if applicable)
_____ First month	\$ 110.00	\$ 55.00
_____ Second month	\$ 420.00	\$ 210.00
_____ Third month	\$ 950.00	\$ 475.00
_____ Fourth month	\$1,480.00	\$ 740.00
_____ Fifth month	\$2,010.00	\$1,005.00

Fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

If an additional extension of time is required, please consider this a petition therefor.

*(Check and complete the next item, if applicable)*

\_\_\_\_\_ An extension of \_\_\_\_\_ months has already been secured. The fee paid  
therefor \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is deducted from the total fee due for the total months  
of extension now requested.

Extension fee due with this request \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

- (b)   X   Applicant believes that no extension of term is required. However, this  
conditional petition is being made to provide for the possibility that  
applicant has inadvertently overlooked the need for a petition for extension  
of time.

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## FEE FOR CLAIMS

4. The fee for claims (37 C.F.R. 1.16(b)-(d)) has been calculated as shown below:

(Col. 1)		(Col. 2)		(Col. 3)	SMALL ENTITY	OR	OTHER THAN SMALL ENTITY
CLAIMS REMAINING AFTER AMENDMENT		HIGHEST NO. PREVIOUSLY PAID FOR		PRESENT EXTRA	ADDITIONAL RATE FEE		ADDITIONAL RATE FEE
TOTAL INDEP.		MINUS		=	x \$9 = \$		x \$18 = \$
		MINUS		=	x \$43 = \$		x \$86 = \$
FIRST PRESENTATION OF MULTIPLE DEP. CLAIM					+ \$145 = \$		+ \$290 = \$
					TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$	OR	TOTAL ADDITIONAL FEE \$

- (a) X No additional fee for claims is required.

OR

- (b) \_\_\_\_\_ Total additional fee for claims required \$

## FEE PAYMENT

5. \_\_\_\_\_ Attached is a check in the sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384 the sum of \$  
 A duplicate of this transmittal is attached.

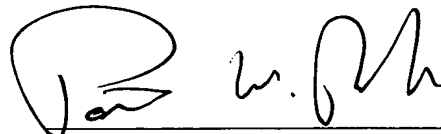
## FEE DEFICIENCY

6. X If any additional extension and/or fee is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

AND/OR

- X If any additional fee for claims is required, charge Deposit Account No. 01-2384.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Other:



Patrick W. Rasche  
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PTO/SB/30 (04-05)

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## Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

Address to:  
Mail Stop RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Application Number	10/064,499
Filing Date	July 22, 2002
First Named Inventor	Brian Johanski et al.
Art Unit	1746
Examiner Name	Chaudhry, Saeed T.
Attorney Docket Number	9DHL20081

**This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR 1.114 of the above-identified application.**

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) practice under 37 CFR 1.114 does not apply to any utility or plant application filed prior to June 8, 1995, or to any design application. See Instruction Sheet for RCEs (not to be submitted to the USPTO) on page 2.

1. **Submission required under 37 CFR 1.114** Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, applicant must request non-entry of such amendment(s).

a. ☐ Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on \_\_\_\_\_

ii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☒ Enclosed

i. ☒ Amendment/Reply

iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)

ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/ Declaration(s)

iv. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Miscellaneous**

a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR 1.103(c) for a period of \_\_\_\_\_ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 CFR 1.17(i) required)

b. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Fees**

The RCE fee under 37 CFR 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR 1.114 when the RCE is filed.

a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, any underpayment of fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 01-2384. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.

i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(e)

ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 CFR 1.136 and 1.17)

iii. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed

c. ☐ Payment by credit card (Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

**WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.****SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED**

Signature		Date	October 6, 2005
Name (Print/Type)	Patrick W. Rasche	Registration No.	37,916

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

Signature		Date	October 6, 2005
Name (Print/Type)	Patrick W. Rasche	Date	October 6, 2005

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.114. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Brian Johanski, et al.

Serial No.: 10/064,499

Filed: July 22, 2002

For: WASHING MACHINE RINSE CYCLE  
METHOD AND APPARATUS

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:  
:  
:

Art Unit: 1746

Examiner: Chaudhry, Saeed T.

**AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop: AF  
Hon. Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated July 6, 2005, and made final, Applicants respectfully request consideration and entry of the following amendment.

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IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, said method comprising:

rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation;

spraying a ~~predetermined quantity~~ of fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate;

terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and

~~continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying a predetermined quantity of fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated; and~~

rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said spraying water into the basket comprises pulsing the water into said basket.

4. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising:

terminating said spraying before rotating the basket at the second rate of rotation; and

repeating rotating the basket at the first rate of rotation and spraying water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate of rotation.

5. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said rotating the basket comprises rotating the basket about a vertical axis.

6. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the predetermined quantity of water is a function of a load type.

7. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the predetermined quantity of water is a function of a load size.

8. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 further comprising executing a deep fill rinse after rotating the basket at the second rate of rotation.

9. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 1 wherein the washing machine includes a user selected rinse selector input, said method further comprising:

executing said rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation, spraying a predetermined quantity of water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate, and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation when a spray rinse cycle is selected; and

executing a deep fill rinse when a deep fill rinse cycle is selected.

10. (currently amended) A method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, said method comprising:

driving the basket at a low speed;

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spraying fresh water into the basket;

~~continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying fresh water, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated;~~

terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and

driving the basket at a high speed.

11. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 10 further comprising repeating driving the basket at a low speed, spraying fresh water into the basket, terminating spraying into the basket, and driving the basket at a high speed.

12. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein spraying fresh water comprises pulsing fresh water.

13. (previously presented) A method in accordance with Claim 11 wherein said driving the basket at high speed comprises driving the basket at high speed for a first period of time, said method further comprising driving the basket at the high speed for a second period of time, the second time period longer than the first time period.

14. (canceled)

15. (currently amended) A method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, said method comprising:

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rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system;

spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device;

saturating clothes in the basket;

~~continuing to spray fresh water into the basket after the clothes are saturated until a predetermined quantity of water has been sprayed;~~

~~continuously draining the sprayed water from the wash tub after the sprayed water moves through the clothes during said spraying, said saturating, and said continuing to spray steps, so that none of the sprayed water is recirculated;~~

terminating spraying into the basket; and

rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system.

16. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 15 wherein said spraying fresh water comprises pulsing fresh water.

17. (original) A method in accordance with Claim 15 further comprising repeatedly rotating the basket at low speed, spraying fresh water into the basket, saturating clothes in the basket, and rotating the basket at high speed.

18. (withdrawn) A washing machine comprising:

a tub;

a basket rotatably mounted within said tub;

a multi-speed drive system for rotating said basket at a first speed and a second speed greater than said first speed;

a spraying device configured to direct fresh water into said tub; and

a controller operatively coupled to said drive system and to said spraying device, said controller configured to operate said drive system to rotate said basket at the first speed while spraying water fresh into said basket, and to operate said drive system at the second speed after terminating said spraying.

19. (withdrawn) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 18, said controller further configured to pulse water through said spraying device.

20. (withdrawn) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 18 wherein said spraying device comprises a nozzle assembly.

21. (withdrawn) A washing machine comprising:

a rotatable basket;

a multi-speed drive system for rotating said basket at a first speed and a second speed greater than said first speed;

a spraying device configured to direct fresh water into said tub; and

a controller operatively coupled to said drive system and to said spraying device, said controller adapted to repeatedly spin said basket at the first speed, spray fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first speed, and spin the basket at the second speed to extract water from the basket.

22. (withdrawn) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 21 wherein said controller is configured to pulse said fresh water spray.

23. (withdrawn) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 22 wherein said controller is configured to spray a predetermined quantity of water prior to spinning the basket at the second speed.

24. (withdrawn) A washing machine comprising:

a rotatable basket;

a drive system operatively coupled to said basket for rotating said basket about a vertical axis;

a spray device configured to spray water into said basket; and

a controller operatively coupled to said drive system and to said spray device, said controller configured to rotate said basket at least at a first speed in a spin cycle and to rotate said basket at a second speed greater than the first speed in the rinse cycle, said controller further configured to spray a predetermined quantity of water each time the basket is rotated at the first speed.

25. (withdrawn) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 24, said controller further configured to pulse fresh water through said spraying device.

26. (withdrawn) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 25, said controller configured to adjust a spray time to deliver a specific volume of water.

27. (withdrawn) A washing machine in accordance with Claim 26, said controller further configured to repeatedly spray fresh water into said basket.

28. (withdrawn) A washing machine comprising:

a tub;

a basket rotatably mounted within said tub;

a multi-speed drive system for rotating said basket at a first speed and a second speed greater than said first speed;

a spraying device configured to direct fresh water into said tub; and

a controller operatively coupled to said drive system and to said spraying device for execution of a spray rinse cycle during a wash cycle, said controller configured to operate said drive system to rotate said basket at the first speed while spraying water fresh into said basket and to operate said drive system at the second speed after terminating said spraying when in the spray rinse cycle, and wherein a number of spray rinse cycles in a wash cycle is a function of at least one of a selected load type and a detected load type.

29. (withdrawn) A washing machine comprising:

a tub;

a basket rotatably mounted within said tub;

a multi-speed drive system for rotating said basket at a first speed and a second speed greater than said first speed;

a spraying device configured to direct fresh water into said tub; and

a controller operatively coupled to said drive system and to said spraying device for execution of a spray rinse cycle, said controller configured to:



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monitor an amount of time to fill said tub with a quantity of water, and

based upon said amount of time, to operate said spraying device to spray a specific amount of water into said basket during said spray rinse cycle.

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## REMARKS

The Office Action dated July 6, 2005, and made final, has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made as a consequence thereof.

Claims 1-29 are now pending in this application. Claims 18-29 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-17 stand rejected. Claims 2 and 14 have been canceled.

The objection to Claim 2 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) is respectfully traversed. Claim 2 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 2 be withdrawn.

Initially, Applicants note that the present Office Action includes multiple Section 103 rejections based on multiple combinations of not less than five prior art references. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the rejections are proper rejections. Obviousness cannot be established by merely suggesting that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify or combine references. More specifically, as is well established, obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the cited art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching, suggestion, or incentive supporting the combination. None of Van Newenhizen, Morey, Badger, Hardaway or Matsumoto, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest the claimed combination. Rather, the present Section 103 rejections appear to be based on a combination of teachings selected from multiple patents in an attempt to arrive at the claimed invention. Since there is no teaching or suggestion in the cited art of the claimed combination, the Section 103 rejection appears to be based on a hindsight reconstruction in which isolated disclosures have been picked and chosen in an attempt to deprecate the present invention. Of course, such a combination is impermissible, and for this reason alone, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 103 rejections of the presently pending claims be withdrawn.

As the Federal Circuit has recognized, obviousness is not established merely by combining references having different individual elements of pending claims. *Ex parte Levengood*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1300 (Bd. Pat. App. & Inter. 1993). MPEP 2143.01. Rather, there must be some suggestion, outside of Applicants' disclosure, in the prior art to combine such references, and a reasonable expectation of success must be both found in the prior art, and not based on Applicants' disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 20 U.S.P.Q.2d 1436 (Fed. Cir. 1991). In the present case, neither a suggestion nor motivation to combine the prior art disclosures, nor any reasonable expectation of success has been shown.

To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). In the present case, the afore-mentioned references relied upon, even if combined, fail to teach all of the limitations of the presently pending claims. Specifically, none of the references describe terminating the application of rinse water at the point of saturation of the clothes.

The rejection of claim 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,199,127) in view of Morey (U.S. Patent No. 4,225,992) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. describe a washing machine (20) having a cabinet (25) with a lid (26). The washer includes a tub (34) and a spin basket (35) defining a wash chamber. The washer also includes a mixing tank (80). The mixing tank communicates at a top end with the wash tub and at a lower end with a pump (38), a drain line (82), and a recirculation line conduit (84). The tank communicates with the drain line through a port (130) and a conduit (132), and via a three-way mixing valve (170), a three-way drain valve (166), and a drain (134). The drain valve is controlled to allow recirculating fluid flow back into the mixing tank during portions of wash and rinse cycles. During rinse cycles, fresh water is taken into the washer and then

recirculated for a number of spray rinse cycles. During the recirculation, rinse water that drains into the tub is pumped back and reused for further rinsing before being discharged to the drain.

Morey describes a washer (10) that includes a separate continuous wash and rinse operation for small loads of garments made from synthetic fibers. The washer includes a tub (12) within a supporting structure (11). A washing basket (13) is rotatably supported within the tub. An agitator (14) is rotatably mounted within the basket. A small basket (18) is secured to the agitator. In the continuous washing and rinsing cycle, garments are washed and rinsed only in the small basket with a fresh water flow through system as opposed to a bath type wash and rinse. The water used in the wash and rinse operation does not fill the basket but rather is only enough to saturate the garment so that they are sopping wet. The water is not recirculated into the basket but is pumped to an external drain. The rate of water flow through the second basket after the clothes are saturated is equal to the rate of water being introduced into the second basket.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles

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wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 4-7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 4-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 4-7 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey. Claim 2 is canceled.

Claim 10 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed."

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 11 and 13 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11 and 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that

dependent Claims 11 and 13 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey. Claim 14 is canceled.

Claim 15 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including “rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system”.

Neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, neither Van Newenhizen et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

Claim 17 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 17 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,730) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. and Morey are described above. Matsumoto et al. describe a drum type washing machine including a drum (2) that is rotatably supported in a water tank (3), a drive unit (4) for rotating the drum, and a plurality of injection nozzles (5) for injecting wash or rinse liquid into the drum. The nozzles are operated by an injection unit (6) that includes a circulating pipe (31) and an air intake pipe (48). Air is mixed with cleaning liquid to create a pulsed injection during the wash cycle. Matsumoto et al. do not give a detailed example of a rinse step. Reference is made to a rinse step including “an operation identical to that in the washing step”.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including “rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation”.

None of Van Newenhizen et al, Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that

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sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 3 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 3 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto.

Claim 12 depends from Claim 10 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed."

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.



Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 12 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from Claim 15 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

None of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation of the clothes is reached. Matsumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent

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Claim 16 likewise is patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,737,790) is respectfully traversed.

Van Newenhizen et al. and Morey are described above. Badger et al. describe a washing machine (1) having a cabinet (2), a hinged lid (3), and a control panel (4). Hot and cold water valves (13) and (14) provide for the delivery of water to a spray nozzle at the upper rim of a spin tub (6) positioned within a stationary water container (5). A spray rinse cycle is described wherein a first "sense rinse" is performed to determine a Sensed Water Volume (SWV) defined as a volume of water required to saturate the clothes plus a volume of water which the clothes load lies in. Multiple subsequent rinse phases are then performed using a fraction of the SWV. Water is centrifugally extracted between the rinse phases.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

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None of Van Newenhizen et al, Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Van Newenhizen et al., Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Van Newenhizen et al. describe rinse cycles wherein fresh water is introduced into the washer beyond a saturation point of the clothes. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Badger et al. describe rinse cycles that use a fraction of a sensed water volume. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Badger et al.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Van Newenhizen et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

The rejection of claim 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being unpatentable over Hardaway et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,233,718) in view of Morey is respectfully traversed.

Morey is described above. Hardaway et al. describe a horizontal axis washing machine (20) having a cabinet (25) with a door (26). The washer includes a tub (34) and a spin basket (35) defining a wash chamber. The washer also includes a mixing tank (80). The mixing tank communicates at a top end with the wash tub and at a lower end with a pump (38), a drain line (82), and a recirculation line conduit (84). The tank communicates with the drain line through a

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three-way mixing valve (170) and a three drain valve (166). The drain valve is controlled to allow recirculating fluid flow back into the mixing tank during portions of wash and rinse cycles. During rinse cycles, fresh water is taken into the washer and then reused in recirculation loops before being discharged to the drain. Rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied.

Claim 1 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including “rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation”.

Neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 4-7 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 4-7 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 4-7 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey. Claim 2 is canceled.

Claim 10 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including "driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed."

Neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

Claims 11 and 13 depend from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claims 11 and 13 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 11 and 13 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey. Claim 14 is canceled.

Claim 15 recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket

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with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system”.

Neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, neither Hardaway et al. nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation of the clothes is reached. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

Claim 17 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 17 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 17 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 11, 13-15, and 17 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,730) is respectfully traversed.

Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al. are described above.

Claim 3 depends from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including “rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while

the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation”.

None of Hardaway et al, Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 3 depends from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claim 3 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 3 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto.

Claim 12 depends from Claim 10 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, and a spraying device, the method including “driving the basket at a low speed; spraying fresh water into the basket; terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and driving the basket at a high speed.”

None of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 10. More specifically, none of

Hardaway et al., nor Morey, considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating spraying into the basket when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 10, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 12 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from Claim 15 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable clothes basket within the wash tub, the rotatable clothes basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and the rotatable clothes basket drivingly engaged to a multi-speed drive system, a spraying device, and a drain assembly, the method including "rotating the basket at a low speed with the drive system; spraying fresh water into the basket with the spraying device; saturating clothes in the basket; terminating spraying into the basket; and rotating the basket at a high speed with the drive system".

None of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 15. More specifically, none of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Matsumoto et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest saturating clothes in the basket and then terminating spraying into the basket. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is



satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Mastumoto et al. give no detailed example of a rinse cycle. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 15 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

Claim 16 depends from independent Claim 15. When the recitations of Claim 16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 15, Applicants submit that dependent Claim 16 likewise is patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Matsumoto et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 3, 12, and 16 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 8-9 under 35 U.S.C. §103 (a) as being unpatentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al. is respectfully traversed.

Hardaway et al., Morey, and Badger et al. are described above.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1 which recites a method for operating a washing machine in a rinse cycle, the washing machine including a wash tub, a rotatable basket within the wash tub, the rotatable basket containing clothes to be rinsed, and a water spraying device, the method including "rotating the basket at a first rate of rotation; spraying fresh water into the basket while the basket is rotating at the first rate; terminating spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached; and rotating the basket at a second rate of rotation, the second rate of rotation greater than the first rate of rotation".

None of Hardaway et al, Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest a method as recited in Claim 1. More specifically, none of Hardaway et al., Morey, and Badger et al., considered alone or in combination, describe or suggest terminating

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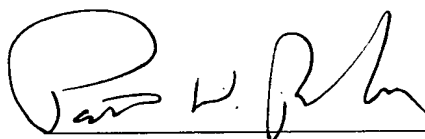
spraying when a saturation point of the clothes is reached. Rather, Hardaway et al. describe rinse cycles wherein rinse water is sprayed until a water level control is satisfied. Morey describes a continuous wash and rinse operation that sprays the clothes after saturation is of the clothes is reached. Badger et al. describe rinse cycles that use a fraction of a sensed water volume. Accordingly, for the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey, and further in view of Badger et al.

Claims 8 and 9 depend from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 8 and 9 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that dependent Claims 8 and 9 likewise are patentable over Hardaway et al. in view of Morey and further in view of Badger et al.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the §103 rejection of Claims 8 and 9 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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APR 02 2008